

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Geography Division, ORR

CONFIDENTIAL

Project Initiation Memorandum

To: Chief, Geographic Research

Project No.: 64.1486

From: Chief, Geography Division

Date: 20 November 1956

1. Subject of Proposed Project: A Geographical Analysis of Novaya Zemlya as Part of the USSR Northern Offense-Defense Perimeter
2. Statement of Problem: (Outline attached)
In case of future global conflict, operations would involve transpolar flights from the interior of the Soviet Union to North America. Such operations will necessarily entail several lines of defense and numerous forward supply and inflight refueling bases. The chain of Arctic Islands, with their existing facilities and potential sites, would be of major significance in such a plan of operation. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the contribution of Novaya Zemlya to this offense-defense perimeter.
3. Requester: Self-initiated
4. Responsible Analysts: [REDACTED] USSR Branch
5. Kind and Extent of Cooperation Desired from:
 - a. Other divisions of the Geographic Area: Cartography for maps
 - b. D/GI domestic procurement: None
 - c. Other parts of CIA: S/OM; OSI
 - d. Outside CIA: AFOIN, ONI
6. Estimated Man Hours: 600 in D/GG.
7. Probable Completion Date: March 1957
8. Probable Form of Final Publication: CIA/RR-G-18
9. Comments: This is the first in a series of Arctic Island studies.

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

[REDACTED]
Chief, Geographic Research

6 Dec 1956
Date

[REDACTED]
Assistant Director, ORR

2 Dec 56
Date

[REDACTED]
Chief, Geography Division

13 DEC 1956
e/ch/G

13 DEC 1956

25X1A

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PN 64.1486

A Geographic Analysis of Novaya Zemlya at East of the USSR Northern
Offense-Defense Perimeter

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
- II. Buildup of forward air bases for bomber refueling and fighter defense
 - A. Existing air bases
 - 1. Distribution and character
 - 2. Environmental influences
 - a. Climate
 - b. Terrain
 - B. Potential landing sites
 - 1. Location
 - 2. Environmental influences
 - a. Climate
 - b. Terrain
- III. Development of support of facilities for aerial and Arctic maritime operations
 - A. Island radar net
 - B. Polar stations
 - C. Ports and landings
- IV. Economic development and activity
 - A. Operational support
 - B. Exports to mainland
 - 1. Minerals
 - 2. Furs
 - C. Subsistence activities of the indigenes
- V. Nuclear testing area

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

This paper has been coordinated with the following persons:

25X1A

25X1A

-- OSI/FSD/GP

25X1A

-- OSI/FSD/GP

-- OCI/CA/SSB

OCI/CA/SSB

OSI/NED

- ORR/S/C

-- ORR/S/OM

-- OCR/SR/RS

CONFIDENTIAL